

Fostering Collaborative Partnerships

Susan E. Craig, Ph.D.

susancraig1689@gmail.com

www.meltdownstomastery.wordpress.com

Potential Partnerships

- Families
- Community Mental Health
- Child Care
- After School Programs
- Local Universities
- Community Opinion Makers
- Local Law Enforcement



Reasons for Collaboration

Analyze Shared/Community Problems

- Arriving at Shared Definition of the Problem
- Involve People Most Affected by the Presenting Problems
- Identify Targets and Agents of Change
- Who Can Benefit and Who Can Help?



Coalition Building

- Develop a Plan for Increasing Participation in Community Effort
- Promote Participation Among Diverse Groups
- Involve Key Formal and Informal Community Leaders in the Initiative
- Involve People Most Affected by the Problem



Maintaining a Coalition

- Use Consensus to Arrive at a Clear Understanding of Purpose
- Agree on Goals
- Identify Task, Timelines, Monitoring Techniques for Goal Attainment
- Solicit Feedback from Everyone Involved
- Be Willing to Make Changes to Advance Progress



Potential Obstacles

- Turf Issues
- Silos of Information
- Bad History or Limited Links to the Community
- Dominance by "professionals" within the coalition and in relationships with the community
- Absence of an structure the collaborative partnership will use to do its work



6 Rs for Maintaining Coalition

Recognition
Respect
Role
Relationships
Reward
Results

